28th September 1956]

Construction of Mattiol-Medai Road, North Malabar

* 269 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the stage at which the construction of Mattool-Medai Road in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, stands now?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMY PADAYATCHI : The work of forming a portion of the road is included in the Second Five-Year Plan. The work will be taken up for execution by the Malabar District Board in due course.

Legislation to restrict one union for one industry

* 270 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to bring in legislation to restrict one union for one industry in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) It has been decided to finalise the proposals after consulting the State Labour Advisory Board at its next meeting to be held on the 10th and 11th October 1956.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Sir, the Hon. Minister says that it will be decided on the 10th October. If all the workers belonging to all unions feel that secret ballot should be taken whenever votes are taken, will the Government agree to it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I did not say that I would decide on the 10th October or that the Government would decide on the 10th October. What I said was that this matter would be put before the Labour Advisory Board at its meeting on the 10th and 11th October. After that, the Government will take a decision. I cannot understand the need for secret ballot on a question like this. Hon. Members should not hesitate to express their independent views on this very important question.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Sir, as the right of association of individuals is guaranteed under the Constitution, and so long as the association is only for non-violent and peaceful purposes and not for disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the State, can the Government restrict the number of unions in an industry? Have the Government consulted legal experts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Regarding the proposal of the Government, there will be no legal difficulty. There is no idea of banning association. The right of association of individuals would not be affected in the least. But the question is, which union should be recognized by the Government for purposes of negotiations, etc.